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## Link Textbox To Cell

The following steps detail a quick technique to dynamically update the contents of a textbox in Microsoft Excel. First let's begin with some data.

Microsoft Excel interface showing the ribbon (Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, Developer, ASAP Utilities) and a spreadsheet grid. The spreadsheet contains data in columns A through L and rows 1 through 15. The data is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1												
2												
3												
4		Number	Qty									
5		1	50									
6		2	100									
7		3	150									
8		4	200									
9		5	250									
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface. The ribbon is set to the 'Insert' tab. A callout '1' points to the 'Insert' tab, and a callout '2' points to the 'Text Box' icon in the 'Text' group. The spreadsheet below shows a table with columns 'lumber' and 'Qty'. A text box is being inserted into cell F4.

lumber	Qty
1	50
2	100
3	150
4	200
5	250

**Text Box**  
Insert a text box that can be positioned anywhere on the page.

1. Click insert tab on ribbon

2. Click textbox

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the following data table:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1												
2												
3												
4		Number	Qty									
5		1	50									
6		2	100									
7		3	150									
8		4	200									
9		5	250									
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

The diagram consists of nodes and lines. A circled '3' with an arrow points to a node in column G, row 7. The diagram also includes nodes in columns E, F, and G, and rows 7, 8, and 9.

3. Click an area on the sheet to insert textbox

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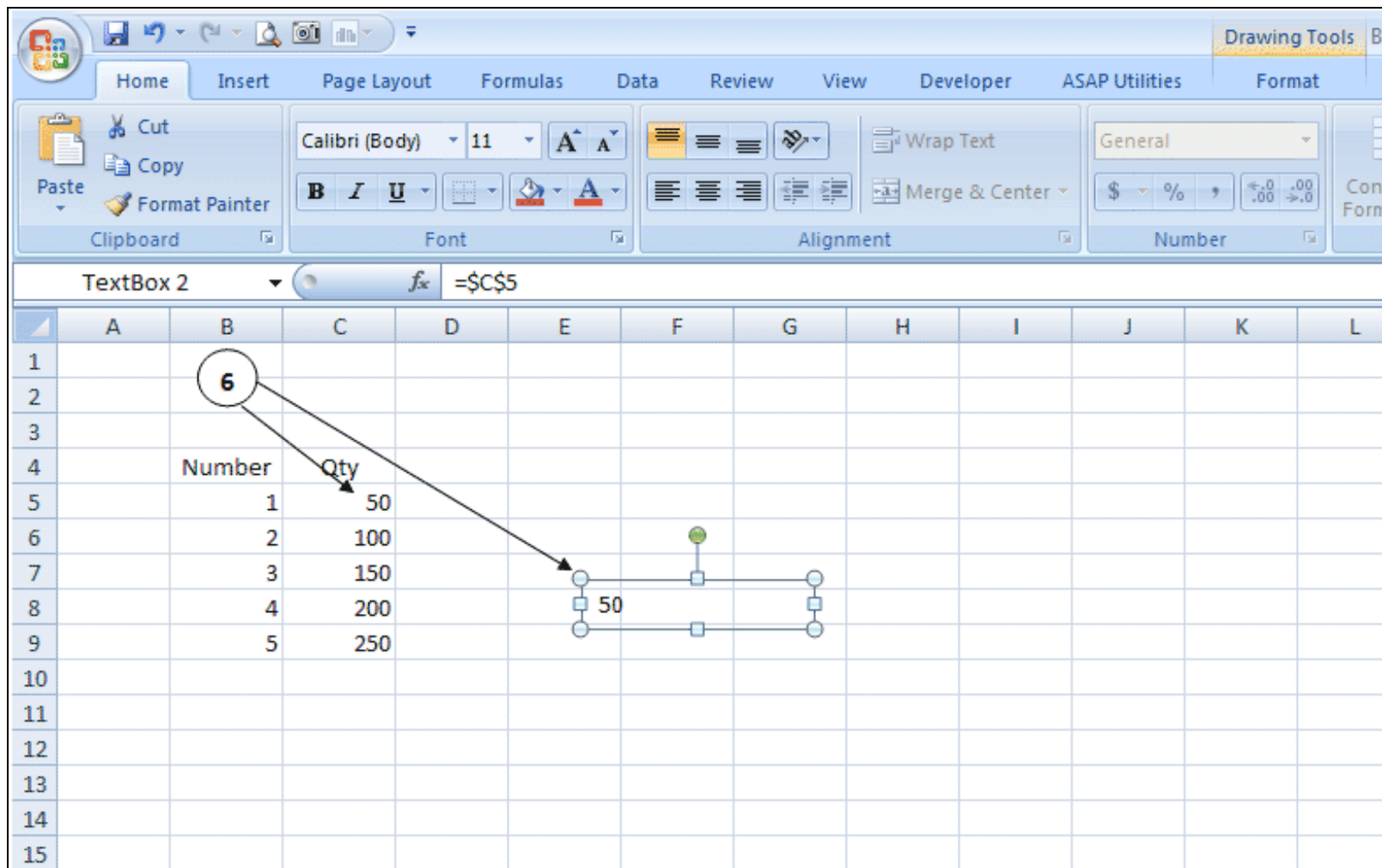
The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface. The ribbon includes Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, Developer, ASAP Utilities, and Format. The formula bar shows the active cell is C5 and contains the formula `=C$5`. The worksheet contains a table with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1												
2												
3												
4		Number	Qty									
5		1	50									
6		2	100									
7		3	150									
8		4	200									
9		5	250									
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

4. While the frame of the textbox is selected (circles on edges of textbox must show up) Click inside the formula bar and type "="

5. Now select the cell you wish to appear in the textbox

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**6. Now the 50 appearing in cell C5 is linked to the textbox. Any changes to this cell will be reflected in the cell.**

This trick can be used when data is constantly being updated. This is an alternative to making redundant updates. I like to use this technique in bar charts when I am running different forecasting scenarios. "Let's work smarter not harder."

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